

Message Text

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15

ACTION PM-03

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R 210230Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 260

CINCPAC

INFO SECDEF WASHDC

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AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

C O N F I D E N T I A L KUALA LUMPUR 3495

NOFORN

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS MY US

SUBJ: CHANGE IN FOREIGN ASSISTANCE STATUS FOR PACOM COUNTRIES

REF: CINCPAC 182259Z JUN 75.

1. WE HAVE CONSIDERED POSSIBILITY OF PROVIDING IN-COUNTRY MILITARY TRAINING TO MALAYSIAN SECURITY FORCES BUT, AT THIS JUNCTURE, NEITHER U.S. NOR MALAYSIAN GOVERNMENT INTERESTS WOULD APPEAR TO BE SERVED BY CHANGING OUR POLICY OF PROVIDING TRAINING ONLY IN CONUS. WHILE WE AGREE THAT RECENT EVENTS IN INDOCHINA SHOULD BE OCCASION FOR REASSESSMENT OF OUR SECURITY INTERESTS IN SOUTHEAST ASIA, MALAYSIAN GOVERNMENT PREFERENCE CONTINUES TO BE THAT MILITARY ASSISTANCE AND TRAINING ARRANGEMENTS WITH U.S. BE POLITICALLY STERILE, I.E. THERE SHOULD BE NO CONNOTATION OF STRINGS ATTACHED OR OVERT U.S. MILITARY PRESENCE. FOR VARIETY OF REASONS, INCLUDING GOM POSITION CONCERNING PASSAGE OF MALACCA STRAIT BY U.S. WARSHIPS AND MALAYSIAN SUSPICIONS THAT U.S. MAY AT SOME POINT SEEK TO ESTABLISH NEW MILITARY BASES IN SEASIA, WE DO NOT FEEL REDESIGNATION OF MALAYSIA TO "TRAINING ONLY" STATUS WOULD HAVE PRACTICAL

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EFFECT, AND WOULD VERY LIKELY CREATE MISUNDERSTANDING IF

CHANGE IN OUR POLICY WERE TO BECOME KNOWN WITHOUT FULL GOM
AGREEMENT AND SUPPORT.

2. IN ADDITION TO POLICY QUESTIONS ADDRESSED ABOVE, THERE IS
PURELY OPERATIONAL ASPECT OF U.S. TRAINING ASSISTANCE TO
MALAYSIA. PRESENTLY WE ARE PRECLUDED FROM USING SECURITY
ASSISTANCE FUNDS FOR TRAINING OF MALAYSIANS IN THIRD COUNTRIES
(E.G., ANNUAL REGIONAL LOGISTICS SEMINAR); IF REDESIGNATION
OF MALAYSIA FROM "CONUS TRAINING ONLY" TO "TRAINING ONLY"
WOULD PROVIDE ONLY RPT ONLY THIS MARGIN OF FLEXIBILITY,
THEN THERE MAY BE MERIT IN CINCPAC'S PROPOSAL. HOWEVER, WE
DO NOT RPT NOT ENVISION THAT ANY IN-COUNTRY TRAINING PER SE,
INCLUDING MOBILE TRAINING TEAMS, COULD BE FUNDED FROM PRESENT
LOW LEVEL OF SECURITY ASSISTANCE, NOR WOULD MALAYSIANS DESIRE IT.

3. DEFENSE ATTACHE CONCURS IN FOREGOING.
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